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Claim 26 therefore also includes the same special technical feature as Group I, Claims 1-24, and all Claims 1-26 should be examined on the merits in accordance with PCT Rule 13.1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the Restriction Requirement and to examine all claims in this application.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method of producing a laminated packaging material comprising a core layer of paper or paperboard and a barrier layer applied on one side of the core layer, wherein a liquid barrier composition including a dispersion or solution of a polymer and an inorganic laminar compound is applied as a barrier layer on at least one side of a carrier layer and is dried during heating for driving off the dispersant or solvent, whereafter the carrier layer with the applied, dried barrier layer is combined and permanently united with one side of the core layer.

B1 2. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said inorganic laminar compound is dispersed to an exfoliated and delaminated state in the liquid barrier composition and in the dried barrier layer.

3. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said barrier layer is applied by means of liquid film coating with a liquid barrier polymer composition further including an inorganic laminar compound.

4. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the barrier layer includes from about 1 to about 30 weight % of the inorganic laminar compound, based on dry coating weight.

5. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the barrier layer includes from about 70 to about 99. weight % of polymer, based on dry coating weight.


B1 6. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the amount of the liquid gas barrier composition coated onto the carrier layer is from about 1 to about 10 g/m² based on dry coating weight.

7. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the liquid gas barrier composition applied as barrier layer includes a polymer with functional hydroxyl groups.

8. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said polymer with functional hydroxyl groups is selected from among polyvinyl alcohol, ethylene vinyl alcohol, starch, starch derivatives, carboxyl methyl cellulose and other cellulose derivatives, or a mixture of two or more thereof.

9. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said liquid gas barrier composition applied as barrier layer is dried and optionally cured at a temperature of approx. 80-230°C.

10. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said liquid gas barrier composition applied as barrier layer also includes a polymer with functional carboxylic acid groups.

 11. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said polymer with functional carboxylic acid groups is selected from among ethylene acrylic acid copolymer and ethylene methacrylic acid copolymer or mixtures thereof.

12. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said barrier layer substantially consists of a mixture of polyvinyl alcohol, ethylene acrylic acid copolymer and the inorganic laminar compound.

13. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the barrier layer substantially consists of a mixture of starch or starch derivative and the inorganic laminar compound.

14. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the dried barrier layer is cured at a web surface temperature of up to 190°C.

15. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the liquid barrier composition is applied as a barrier layer is dried at a web surface temperature of 140 to 160°C and is cured at a web surface temperature of from 170 to 190°C.

16. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said carrier layer consists of paper.

B | 17. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said carrier layer consists of paper with a grammage of approx. 5-35 g/m².

18. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said carrier layer consists of plastic coated paper.

19. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the carrier layer bearing at least one barrier layer is combined and united with the core layer by extrusion of a layer of thermoplastics therebetween.

20. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the carrier layer bears a said barrier layer on one side thereof and is combined with the core layer by extrusion of a layer of thermoplastics between the carrier layer and the core layer.

21. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 20, wherein an outer layer of thermoplastics is applied on the barrier layer by means of extrusion.

22. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the carrier layer bears a said barrier layer on one or both sides and is combined with the core layer by extrusion of a layer of thermoplastics between the core layer and a said barrier layer.

B1 23. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the carrier layer bears a said barrier layer on both sides thereof and a layer of thermoplastics is applied to the outer layer of barrier material by extrusion.

24. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the layer of plastics applied between the core layer and the carrier layer or a said barrier layer includes a substance functioning as light barrier.

25. (Previously presented) A laminated packaging material, wherein it is produced by the method as claimed in Claim 1.

26. (Currently amended) A packaging container, wherein it is produced by ~~fold formation of a sheet or web-shaped~~ from the laminated packaging material as claimed in Claim 25.
